

**Income Maintenance Advisory Committee
Division of Workforce Solutions &
Division of Health Care Finance**

A G E N D A

Thursday, February 21, 2002

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

GEF III

Room 041

Madison, WI

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1. | Administrative Items – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IMAC and CNI Communication• Farm Bill Update• FS Error Reduction Grants | Ed Kamin
Cheryl McIlquham
Rick Zynda |
| 2. | SeniorCare Update - | Cheryl McIlquham |
| 3. | Caretaker Supplement Update | Kathleen Luedtke |
| 4. | Food Stamp Program – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer to DHFS• Food Stamp Handbook On-line• Food Stamp Waivers | Cheryl McIlquham
Rick Zynda |
| 5. | CARES Updates | Jill Jokela |
| 6. | USDA-FNS Data Collection
(See Attachment) | Rick Zynda |

Next meeting:

Date: March 21, 2002

Location: GEFIII

Room 041

State: Wisconsin

Caseloads

Estimated increase/decrease: Based on the rate of growth in 2001 of approximately 2%/month, we estimate that by end-of-calendar-year 2002, Wisconsin could have approximately 122,000 food stamp households containing 303,000 people. That represents approximately a 20% increase over December 2001, when we had 101,919 households containing 252,332 people.

Anticipated impact on Households (Hhs): Caseloads continue to increase, but fiscal and staff resources generally stay the same. Some local agencies indicate that current caseloads don't allow them to provide what they consider high quality, or even adequate, customer service.

Anticipated impact on state and local operations: Challenge to provide simplified, accurate and timely policy, additional training for local agencies, accurate and timely quality control responsibilities, seek and implement waivers, monitor program initiatives (including reinvestment projects), issue accurate and timely benefits, and administer fraud prevention, and collection of overissuances – all with a limited number of staff.

FSP Staffing

Fully staffed level is:

State Staffing: Wisconsin does not set staffing levels for individual programs.

Local Staffing: Local agencies determine staffing levels, based on available state/federal funding allocations. Some local agencies supplement with local funding.

Current food stamp program staffing level is:

Local Staffing: Wisconsin does not determine current staffing levels for individual programs. The majority of food stamp households also receive other program benefits and in most agencies, a single worker handles all 'Income Maintenance Program' assistance received.

We have a local agency Income Maintenance Advisory Committee (IMAC) that meets monthly with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) & Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). IMAC has appointed a Workload Study sub-committee to explore options for addressing caseload/workload/staffing/funding issues. In addition, local agencies are sponsoring a one day statewide forum in late February to discuss these issues and develop a set of recommendations to submit to the State. Following receipt of this document, we will likely have further information to share.

Are you able to fill vacancies? Not at this time.

If no, why (e.g., hiring freeze, no funding)?

State: Hiring freeze for all State positions funded in part or in total by state funds.
Local: Varies by county/tribal jurisdiction, including how State Income Maintenance allocation is utilized locally. Many indicate an inability to increase staffing levels.

Anticipated impact on Hhs: Unknown

Anticipated impact on state operations: See response in first section above

State budget

Sufficient at present? Unknown

Expected increases/decreases: State Departments have been asked to reduce budgets. Total reductions are not yet determined, as the legislature and Governor are currently deliberating over an estimated \$1 billion or more deficit. Results could also impact local government resources.

Anticipated impact on Hhs: Unknown

Anticipated impact on state operations: At the present time, we do not anticipate cuts in staffing or state operations.

Other considerations

Please list and provide anticipated impact

on Hhs: Changes due to Reauthorization of the FS Act in 2002 – unknown at this time – simplification desired, which could increase caseload.

on state operations: same as above – implementation workload for state and local staff.

The State's 2002-2003 Biennial Budget legislation included a transfer of the FS program from DWD to DHFS, effective July 1, 2002. (A "plan" is to be submitted to the legislature by March, including the number of positions, staff, funding and functions to be transferred.) The purpose is to co-locate the "entitlement programs" (Food Stamps and Medicaid) in the same Department, to help facilitate coordination of policies, procedures, and service delivery. Medicaid is already located in DHFS. The WIC and TEFAP programs are also located in DHFS. Plans are currently under development for the transfer, including where and how the FS program will fit in the structure of DHFS. One option that has been offered is to co-locate the FNS administered programs within DHFS. Currently, WIC is located in the Division of Public Health, and TEFAP is in the Division of Children and Families. Medicaid is in the Division of Health Care Financing. Other options are also being considered.

The impact of the transfer is unknown at this time.

Proposed state performance targets

Participation: Wisconsin is committed to serving all applicants and recipients, but has not set performance targets for the level of food stamp participation

Claims establishment and collections: Wisconsin, at the state and local level, is committed to reducing overpayments by increasing payment accuracy, but has not set targets for claim establishment and collection.